

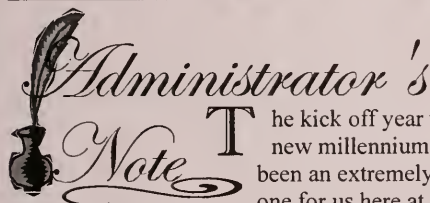
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# Newsletter

December  
2000

Volume 50 Number 1



**A** he kick off year to the new millennium has been an extremely busy one for us here at DES.

When we started out the year with a fully activated Emergency Coordination Center on January 1, we should have recognized it as an accurate precursor of what was to follow. Y2K was our first indication the new year presented some interesting challenges for our state. The uniqueness of the event prompted us to activate in order to handle any potential consequences Y2K could have possibly brought about.

Shortly thereafter, the lack of moisture we had received over the winter (and several past) became a concern as we addressed numerous drought designation requests. By the time all designations had been received and assessed by the Secretary of Agriculture, all 56 counties within the state had been designated due to drought conditions.

Then came the fires. It was a worse fire season than any of us could have imagined, certainly

worse than any of us had seen in our lifetimes. The 24-hour activation of our Emergency Coordination Center lasted 55 days! Although we have scaled back to our day-to-day operations, we will continue to work recovery for many months to come. Those counties most affected will, unfortunately, take years to recover.

And now, we are faced with yet another disaster in our state. Winter storms. Severe weather has ravaged the northeastern part of the state bringing widespread power outages compounded by frigid temperatures.

It has been an interesting, yet busy year, inundating our state with disaster. As we look back on the Year 2000, it was filled with challenges and opportunities, which will be utilized to contribute to an even stronger emergency management system in Montana.

To all of you and your families,  
have a safe and happy holiday season!



*Jim Greene*  
DES Administrator

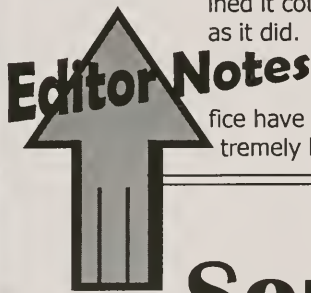


## STATE OF MONTANA



**F**ires 2000! It's not likely to be a summer we will soon forget. Although most families are back where they belong, it will take time for those who lost their homes to rebuild and start over. Those of us who live here will have constant reminders for years to come - scorched scenery, vivid memories, and the comfort of having had a nation assist us in our time of need.

Despite the telltale signs of a disastrous year for fires, none of us imagined it could get as bad as it did. As a result, all of us here at the State Office have been extremely busy.



I have dedicated a large portion of this issue to the wildfire season and provided you with a look back at some of what the state had to contend with this past summer - the power of Mother Nature and the heroic efforts taken daily to protect the lives of our citizens.

Fires 2000—A year to remember, an event to learn from, an opportunity for us all to join efforts to help one another.

Enjoy!

Until Next Time!  
Monique T. Lay  
Newsletter Editor

## Some History....

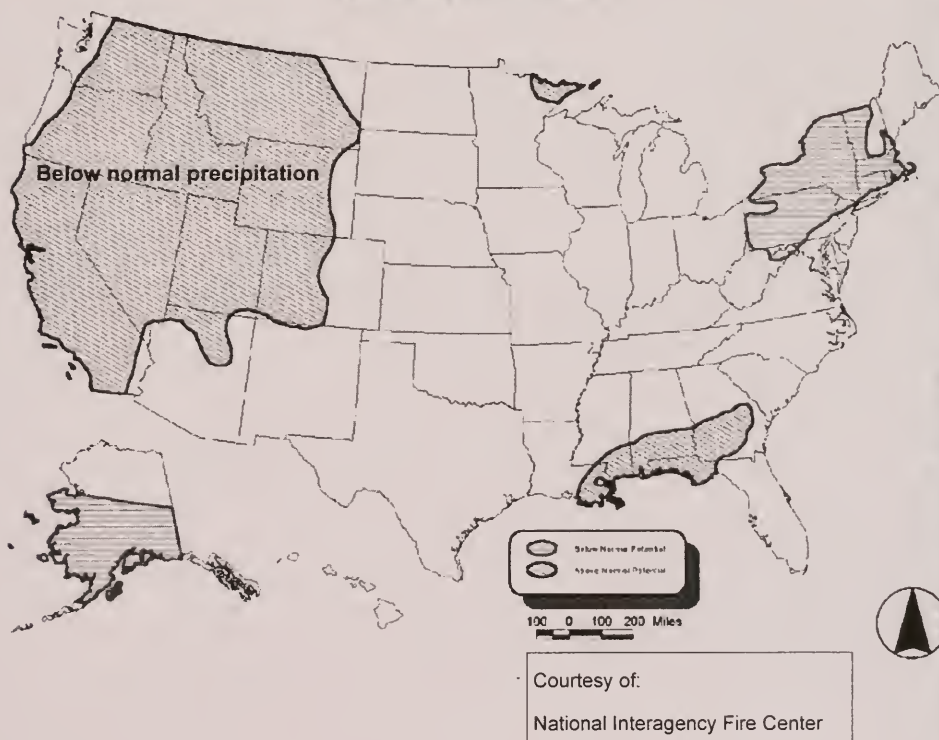
The State of Montana has been in a severe drought condition for the past few years. These extremely dry conditions resulted in low fuel moistures throughout the year. In addition, low relative humidity, reduced rainfall, thunderstorms, dry lightning and erratic wind events combined to create hazardous fire conditions in certain areas of the state. The result was one of the most treacherous and memorable fire seasons on record...

# *The Summer of 2000*

# The Potential Was There...

Throughout the year, the situation was monitored closely. The weather, the lack of precipitation, the continuing drought conditions....all aspects were analyzed and the signs indicated an active fire season. The first major fire started in the Bitterroot National Forest in Ravalli County on July 12, 2000. It was labeled the Little Blue Fire and had burned over 6000 acres by July 18th. By this time, several other fires were burning throughout the state and the potential for fire quickly turned into a reality.

## Potential Assessment



# And So It Began...

## Montana Declares

**D**uring the late afternoon of July 23, 2000, two wildfires broke out in the vicinity of Canyon Ferry Lake near Helena, Montana. The wind driven fires spread rapidly and quickly escaped initial attack efforts by local firefighters. Collectively, those fires were managed as the "Canyon Ferry Fire Complex". On 7/24/00, the Northern Rockies Coordination Center elevated the status of the Northern Rockies Area to "Preparedness Level IV". Preparedness Level IV is a "trigger" for action on the part of cooperating agencies, including DNRC's training of Montana National Guard personnel for potential fire assignments. A FEMA Fire Suppression Declaration for the Canyon Ferry Fire Complex was approved on 7/25/00 and Lewis & Clark County and Broadwater County Commissioners signed emergency declarations related to these fires. Governor Marc Racicot signed an Executive Order (#17-00) in which he declared a state of emergency within Fire Zone 3 in the State of Montana. On 7/28/00, Governor Marc Racicot signed Executive Order (#18-00) declaring a state of emergency throughout the entire State of Montana.

Other active fires by this time included the The Fort Howes Fire Complex 25 miles south of Ashland at 40,000 acres, The Cougar Fire 30 miles SW of Phillipsburg at 3,000 acres, the Tobin Fire 26 miles WNW of Broadus estimated at 6,500 acres, the Upper Monture Fire Complex 7-17 miles ESE of Seeley Lake estimated at 2,680 acres, and the Powder River Fire Complex (in Custer, Rosebud, and Powder River counties) estimated at 250 acres.



The map showing the areas affected by the Canyon Ferry Complex fires was provided, developed, and maintained by the Helena Independent Record.

WKlinkel



# Canyon Ferry Complex



Smoke billows from the Cave Bay fire. The morning winds whipped the fire back into an inferno, with flames reaching as high as 100 feet.

George Lane photo, The Independent Record



Retardant is dumped on the west slope of the Spokane Hills, located on the west side of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

George Lane photo, The Independent Record

# No Peace in the Valley...

**R**avalli County: Late in the afternoon on August 1, several fires in the Bitterroot Valley flared up resulting in multiple road closures and voluntary evacuations. They reported as many as sixty new starts. By the next day, The Valley Fire Complex was clearly the focus of state fire officials. The Blodgett Creek Fire, four miles west of Hamilton, blew up on Tuesday and resulted in the evacuation of 50 people from 26 homes in the vicinity. Wednesday, the Forest Supervisor officially "closed the Bitterroot National Forest" due to concerns over public and fire fighter safety. Early the next afternoon, Ravalli County authorities began conducting evacuations of an estimated 300 homes in an area NW of Hamilton. The Sula Complex was also contributing significantly to their problems.

By August 24th the Bitterroot Valley had suffered significant losses including 210 structures—65 of which were residences, 75 vehicles, and had scorched nearly 275,000 acres of land! Unfortunately, nothing indicated that this would come to an end soon and several hundred people still remained evacuated from their homes.



Photograph Courtesy of:  
National Interagency Fire Center website

Photo by Karen Wattenmaker





Photograph Courtesy of:  
National Interagency Fire Center website

The fire suppression efforts within the Bitterroot Valley quickly became a national priority. Although losses were significant, this county was only one of many with serious fires and fire related challenges. The following events were occurring simultaneously with the action in the Bitterroot, contributing to the resource deficit and a quickly tiring response system:

- The Cougar Fire (30 miles SW of Phillipsburg) at 3,880 acres.
- The Middle Fork Complex (SW of Phillipsburg) at 3,250 acres—resulted in the closure of the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Area.
- The Mussigbrod Complex (12 miles NW of Wisdom) at 10,700 acres.
- The Boulder Hill Fire (located 2 miles north of Boulder) estimated at 3,300 acres.
- High Ore Road Fire (located 3 miles northeast of Boulder) at approximately 1,000 acres.
- The Judith Complex (25 miles SW of Stanford) at 170 acres.
- The Canyon Ferry Complex (Bucksnot and Cave Gulch) at 41,922 acres.
- The McDonald Creek II Fire (36 miles SW of Choteau) reported at 1,100 acres.
- The Upper Monture / Spread Ridge Complex (east of Seeley Lake) estimated at 15,000 acres.
- The Parke Peak Fire (in the NW corner of Glacier National Park) at approximately 400 acres.
- The Hell Creek Fire (20 miles NW of Jordan) burned about 750 acres.
- The Taylor Springs Complex (26 miles SE of Darby) consisting of eight new fires—collectively they have burned an estimated 262 acres.
- The Clear Creek Fire (six miles north of Perma) is now-estimated at 6,000 acres.
- The "Flat Creek Complex" includes eight fires that originated within a few miles of Superior on 8/4
- Elk Mountain (35 miles E of Libby), burned approximately 175 acres.
- The "Ninemile Complex" (west of Missoula) consisting of six separate fires

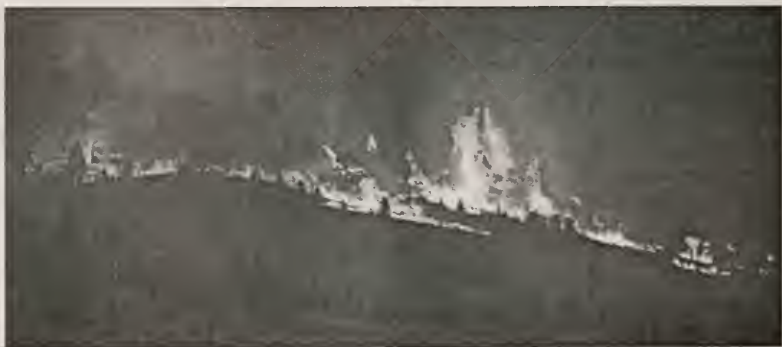
# Jefferson County Joins the Action...



National Guard soldiers deploy along the fire line of the High Ore Road fire Thursday north of Boulder in an effort to save homes and cabins.  
(PHOTO BY WALTER HINICK/THE MONTANA STANDARD, AUG. 10, 2000)

The Boulder Hill Fire broke out the afternoon of August 2 in Jefferson County and was quickly joined by the High Ore Road Fire. Collectively, they became known as the Boulder Complex. The High Ore Road Fire burned over 8,000 acres. The fire did burn through the small community of Wickes. No occupied residences were reported lost; however, an old post office and several outbuildings were destroyed. Additionally, Montana Power Company reported that the fire did cause damage to two main power transmission lines. Jefferson County authorities analyzed the threats to the towns of Clancy and Boulder and re-

fined their evacuation plans. The Boulder Hill Fire, burned over 3,000 acres, destroyed two structures during the first day of the fire. The community of Elkhorn was threatened and Tizer and Aspen Valley Roads were closed. The Boulder Complex ultimately consumed over 12,600 acres along with several outbuildings. This came with many evacuations and multiple road and highway closures.



Huge Walls of flames leap high into the night sky as they race along this hillside near the town of Boulder Monday night. The fire was only a half mile away from I-15.

Photo courtesy of George Lane / IR Staff Photographer.



## Boulder Fire

begins 8/2 2:30 p.m.

■ 8/10 3 p.m.









Fire at approximately 2,700 acres. Fire jumped fire line on east flank yesterday, growing approximately 40 acres.

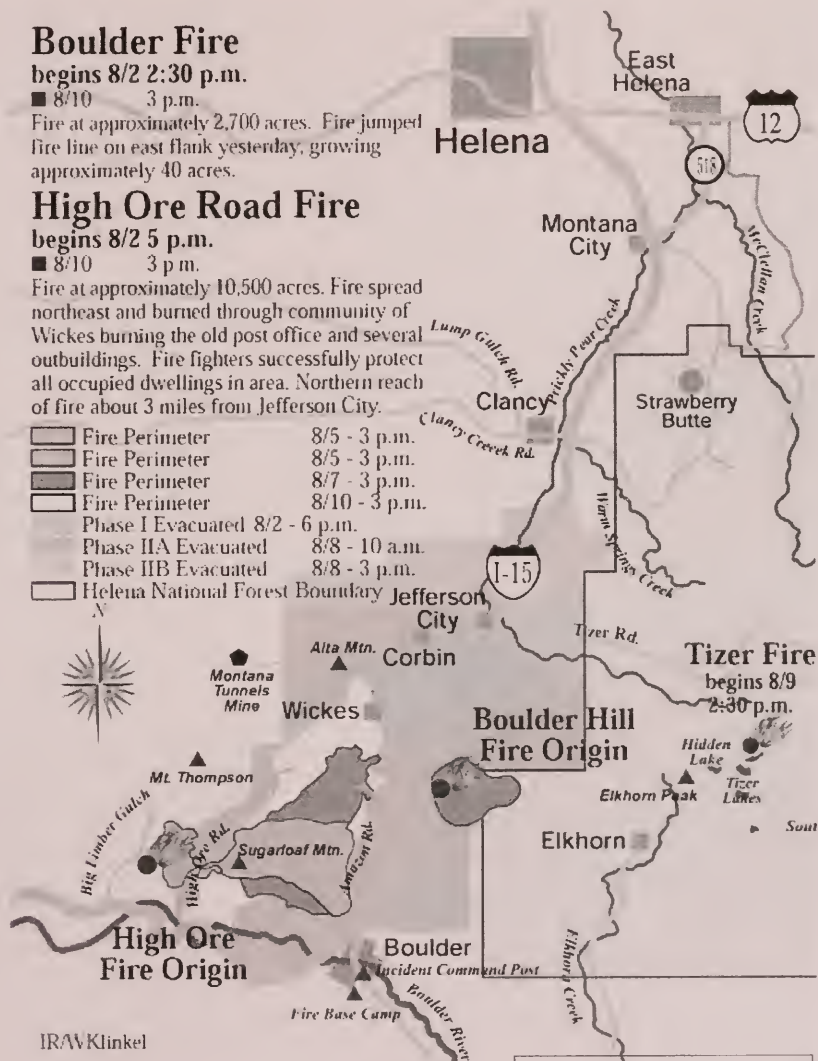
## High Ore Road Fire

begins 8/2 5 p.m.

■ 8/10 3 p.m.

Fire at approximately 10,500 acres. Fire spread northeast and burned through community of Wickes burning the old post office and several outbuildings. Fire fighters successfully protect all occupied dwellings in area. Northern reach of fire about 3 miles from Jefferson City.

-  Fire Perimeter 8/5 - 3 p.m.
-  Fire Perimeter 8/5 - 3 p.m.
-  Fire Perimeter 8/7 - 3 p.m.
-  Fire Perimeter 8/10 - 3 p.m.
-  Phase I Evacuated 8/2 - 6 p.m.
-  Phase IIA Evacuated 8/8 - 10 a.m.
-  Phase IIB Evacuated 8/8 - 3 p.m.
-  Helena National Forest Boundary



IRAVKlinkel

The map showing the areas affected by the Boulder and High Ore Fires (Boulder Complex) was provided, developed, and maintained by the Helena Independent Record. WKlinkel

# ...Broadwater County...



**Maudlow/Toston Fire:** Located 25 miles north of Belgrade, this fire moved quickly and exhibited extreme fire behavior. It threatened ranches, numerous homes and structures, even whole subdivisions, and resulted in multiple evacuations. Areas along Highway 12 were threatened and resulted in several instances where shutting down this major roadway was necessary. On August 19, the fire ran seven miles in seven hours, burning independently in many directions and challenging the fortitude of the responders and the residents of the area.

Associated Press photo/MARK J. TERRILL

A tree is engulfed in flames of the Maudlow/Toston fire, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2000, near Helena, Montana. The Toston fire, one of several in Montana, burned more than 81,000 acres.

# ...and Carbon County

## The Willie Fire...

Initiated as a result of a motorcycle accident, this rapidly spreading fire quickly became a priority. In comparison to other events around the state, this 1500 acre fire was small; however, the threat it posed was massive. It threatened several hundred structures, closed down a major highway, and disrupted a Willie Nelson concert—hence its name.



Associated Press photo/ED ANDRIESKI

A Skycrane helicopter drops a load of water on a hot spot on the Willie forest fire near Red Lodge, Saturday, September 2, 2000. The forecast for rain for the weekend promised to help firefighters get the upperhand on fighting fires throughout the west.

**T**he impact of the fires to the wild lands in Montana is reported by the National Interagency Fire Center to be 2,432 individual fires effecting 950,120 acres of land. While this is a sobering number, remember, Montana is a state that consists of an area that measures 93 million acres of land— vast mountain ranges, myriad valleys, pristine rivers and lakes, and stunning high plains--the majority of which remains undamaged. Statistically speaking, only 1% of Montana was affected by this year's historic fire season.

# There is Help....and Hope

Federal director says funds will pay 100 percent of eligible costs.

**WICKES** (AP) — The director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency toured the scorched landscape of this tiny town Saturday as firefighters continued their battle against 19 major fires in the state. James Lee Witt met with Montana's U.S. Sens. Conrad Burns and Max Baucus and Gov. Marc Racicot in Helena to discuss the fires before touring some of the hardest hit areas. Flames from the High Ore Road fire swept through Wickes earlier this week, destroying an abandoned post office and other buildings. A child's smoldering bicycle still sat in one field as Witt toured the tiny community south of Helena. Once a mining camp, Wickes now has only a handful of homes. Meeting with area volunteer firefighters, Witt promised federal assistance in battling the blazes. The High Ore Road fire, along with the nearby Boulder Hill fire, have together burned close to 14,000 acres and forced the evacuation of hundreds of people. The fires were about 85 percent contained Saturday morning and some 900 firefighters re-

mained on the line. In all, officials estimate more than 352,000 acres in Montana have burned. But fire officials said they were encouraged by two days of cooler temperatures that allowed crews to make some progress on the blazes. They cautioned the fires likely are far

from being contained. Forecasts called for a return of hot, dry temperatures. "We're hoping that the situation is past its crisis

stage," said Jack Kendley, a fire information officer for two major blazes burning south of Helena. "I think we're in pretty good shape. ... Our biggest danger would be spotting over the fire lines." State Disaster and Emergency Services Division officials estimated that 2,439 houses were threatened by wildfires around the state, including more than 1,900 in the Bitterroot fires. So far, 166 buildings, including more than 50 homes, have burned since the fires began in late July. Witt said Montana's fires are so bad that FEMA will pay for

James Lee Witt visits the fire ravaged community of Wickes. This story, released by the Associated Press, reports on the assistance the Federal Emergency Management Agency promised to the State of Montana.

*(Continued on page 13)*





**Wickes, Montana**—August 12, 2000 — FEMA Director James Lee Witt and Governor Marc Racicot (foreground left side) are briefed on the Montana wildfires.

Photo by Shawn Lay/ FEMA News Photo

*(Continued from page 12)*

100 percent of eligible state and local firefighting costs, with 50 percent now. "Let's get it done," Baucus said. "We shouldn't have to have the I's dotted and the T's crossed to get the money that is needed." Racicot said he had considered calling the Legislature into special session to provide funding authority to fight the fires, but this won't be necessary at this time because of the money from FEMA.

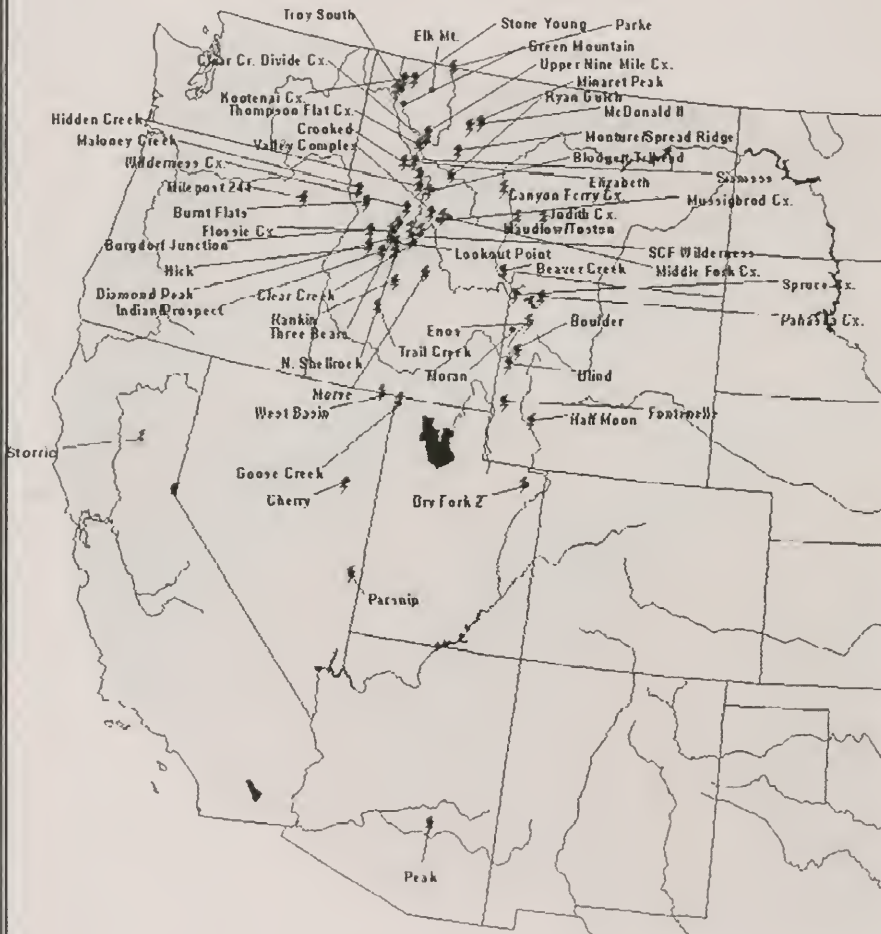
State, local and federal fighting costs have topped \$62 million in Montana.

-Associated Press

# To Sum It Up...

## Large Wildland Fires 8/22/2000

Only Fires Greater Than 1,000 Acres Shown



# Nine Major Problems in Disaster Planning

## 1. Failure to assess the overall scope of the incident

Typically, no one is assigned this task, therefore, the information necessary to determine the scope of the incident never comes together – everyone has bits and pieces of info.

## 2. Failure to get emergency information to relevant organizations

Good disaster plans provide for ways to get accurate information and to disseminate it to all interested parties. Rumors and distortions persist if information is not gathered and disseminated. Sometimes hospitals are the last to get word of mass casualty incidents.

## 3. Failure to plan for the establishment of an on-scene command post

## 4. Inter-organizational coordination

Sometimes there is failure to establish an Emergency Operations Center (Emergency Coordination Center might be a more appropriate name), or if there is an EOC, failure to specify who should report there and who and what should be coordinated.

## 5. Tasks are ignored

Sometimes emergency-related tasks are ignored, are not anticipated or are not assigned to a particular agency, for example development of ID cards and coordination of volunteers.

## 6. Planning only for the most likely disasters

## 7. Failure to plan for the transition from the emergency phase to recovery.

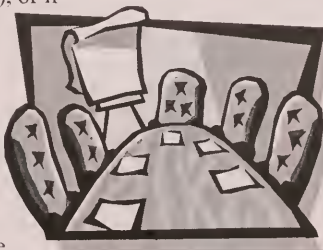
Priorities need to be established for returning the community to normal. Among other things, establishing priorities helps morale.

## 8. Failure to rehearse plans

Plans need to be exercised at both the organizational and community levels.

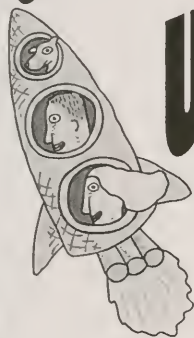
## 9. Plans get out of date

Plans can get of date quickly, especially resource lists. Plans need to be reviewed and revised periodically. Unrevised plans (and those copied from other jurisdictions) give the illusion of preparedness and can be worse than no plan at all.



Provided by:  
Bill Thomas  
DES District I Rep

# Wander the Web



## If you plan on traveling:

**www.mapquest.com**—Use this site to plan your route. It provides detailed driving instructions, including mileage between checkpoints, and a map. Enter your starting point and your destination.

**www.travlang.com/languages**—Helps you get familiar with the lingo by providing useful expressions in dozens of different languages. This site also includes sound files so you hear the words pronounced.

**www.cdc.gov/travel**—This site provides you with health information for specific regions, recent disease outbreaks, and advice for travelers with special needs. A great resource to help your stay healthy abroad.

# Winter HOLIDAYS!



December 21.....	Winter Solstice
December 25.....	Christmas Day
January 1 .....	New Year's Day
January 15 .....	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 24 .....	Chinese New Year
February 12.....	Lincoln's Birthday
February 14.....	Valentine's Day
February 19.....	President's Day
February 22.....	Washington's Birthday
February 28.....	Ash Wednesday



Winter  
begins... *December*

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## **County Updates**

### **Lincoln County:**

New Emergency Manager: Randy Sutton  
Office & EOC Number: (406) 293-6295

### **Missoula County:**

New Emergency Manager: Jane Ellis  
Office Number: (406) 523-4758

### **Ravalli County:**

New Emergency Manager: Greg Chilcott  
Office Number: (406) 375-6282



Check out:

***<http://www.firerescueonline.com>***

New and upgraded fire rescue website!!



## tips for helping your pet in a disaster



### 1. Take Your Pets with You:

When people are told to evacuate, there is a life-threatening reason for it. If it can threaten the lives of people, it can threaten the lives of pets. If you leave your pet behind with two days of food, chances are that you won't be able to return in seven. If you need to evacuate, take your pet with you. The American Automobile Association publishes the "Pet Book" that highlights the pet-friendly motels and hotels in the region. Most of the hotel/motel chains publish a directory that identifies facilities that can accommodate your pet.

### 2. Develop a Disaster Drill:

Walk through a disaster drill with your family members and pets. Pinpoint a handful of suitable locations where you can retreat with your pet, such as kennels, pet-friendly hotels, and veterinary clinics with boarding space. Quite frankly, you need to have an action plan of what to do with your pets and family members together with food and water in the event something happens.

### 3. Start a Buddy System in Your Neighborhood:

If you aren't home when a disaster strikes, a buddy system may save your pet's life. Exchange health care information and put written authorization in your pet's files that allows your "buddy" to approve treatment, if necessary.

### 4. Seek Training:



Check with your local humane society or animal shelter for information about disaster training. For a national scope, contact Emergency Animal Rescue Service EARS @ United Animal Nations, Department CF Post Office Box 188890 Sacramento, California 95818, (916) 429-2456 or [info@van.org](mailto:info@van.org). FEMA offers home

study courses IS-10 Animals in Disaster: Module A "Awareness and Preparedness" and IS-11 Animals in Disaster: Module B "Community Planning". Check the web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

5. **Donate Resources:**

Animal victims of disasters need food, litter supplies, crates, foster care, food, bowls—the list goes on. Anybody can offer financial support or time to collect supplies, answer phones or spread the work where rescued pets are being housed. If possible, stick around for the long run.

6. **Register "Found" Pets with Rescue Personnel:**

As good-hearted as it may seem, fostering "found" cats and dogs without first registering with rescue personnel leaves them as good as lost in their owner's eyes.

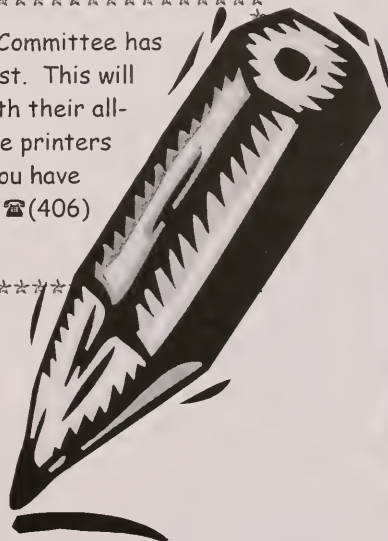


Jim Wingrove  
State of Mississippi  
Emergency Management Newsletter  
Volume 4—Number 3—May 2000

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The School Disaster Preparedness Resource Committee has developed an All-Hazards Procedures Checklist. This will provide basic guidance in assisting schools with their all-hazard plan. This checklist is currently at the printers and will be delivered back to us shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Monique Lay at ☎(406) 841-3963 or email [mlay@state.mt.us](mailto:mlay@state.mt.us).

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# 1999 Disasters Cost Big Bucks



In 1999, U.S. property and casualty insurers paid \$8.2 billion to homeowners and businesses for losses caused by 27 catastrophic events. The number of claims filed was the third highest in a single year, and the Property Claim Services Division of Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) says the total cost was the fifth highest for catastrophe losses since 1949, when ISO's record-keeping began. ISO defines a catastrophe as an event that causes \$25 million or more in insured property losses and affects a significant number of policy holders and insurers.

**The ten states that suffered the highest losses were:**

STATE	AMOUNT	CAUSE
Oklahoma	\$1.1 Billion	Tornadoes
North Carolina	\$928 million	Hurricanes Dennis & Floyd
Texas	\$515 mission	Severe Weather
Virginia	\$485 million	Hurricanes Dennis & Floyd
Michigan	\$375 million	Severe Weather
Ohio	\$375 million	Severe Weather
Pennsylvania	\$255 million	Hurricane Floyd
New York	\$230 million	Severe Weather
Florida	\$222 million	Hurricanes Floyd and Irene



ISO notes that 1999 was the first time in 25 years that California did not suffer a single catastrophe, while Florida, the state that incurred the greatest insured losses during the decade, was only 10th, despite an active hurricane season. Although the number of events was the second lowest in the decade, eight hurricanes struck the U.S., five of which were category III or higher. The record year for losses was 1992, when Hurricane Andrew struck the U.S., causing insured losses measuring \$22.9 billion.

### The top ten states for losses from 1990 to 1999 were:

Reprinted from:  
Natural Hazards Observer  
Volume XXIV Number 5, May 2000

<u>STATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Florida	\$19.3 billion
California	\$17.5 billion
Texas	\$6.6 billion
North Carolina	\$3.4 billion
Oklahoma	\$2.6 billion
New York	\$2.4 billion
Minnesota	\$2.3 billion
Kansas	\$2.0 billion
Illinois	\$1.7 billion
Colorado	\$1.7 billion

ever wonder why...

we demand speed laws that will stop fast driving, then won't buy a car if it can't go over 100 miles per hour?

we will work hard on a farm so we can move into town where we can make more money so we can move back to the farm?

in the office we talk about baseball, shopping or fishing, but when we are out at the game, the mall or on the lake, we talk about business?

we have more experts on marriage than any other country in the world and still have more divorces?

we're the country that has more food to eat than any other country in the world and more diets to keep us from eating it?

# Storm Ready

According to the National Weather Service, the U.S. is the region most prone to severe weather in the world, averaging 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 1,000 tornadoes, and 1,000 flash floods a year. IN an effort to encourage communities to improve local hazardous weather operations and public awareness, the NWS recently launched "StormReady," a nationwide program that helps communities develop plans to handle local severe weather threats, from tsunamis to tornadoes.

This voluntary program provides communities with clear-cut advice from their local NWS office, state and local emergency managers, and the media.

Begun by the NWS Forecast Office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the program is now nationwide and aims to make 20 communities Storm-Ready each year for the next five years. The program will:

- Work to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings;
- Help local emergency managers justify costs to support their hazardous-weather-related programs;
- Provide support to local emergency managers; and



- Provide an "image incentive" to local governments that can identify themselves as being StormReady.

For communities interested in participating in the program, the StormReady program has specific criteria regarding communications, reception of NWS information, hydro-meteorological monitoring, local warning dissemination, community preparedness, and program administration.

The StormReady Web site offers background information about the program; details on how to participate; a list of useful publications; safety information about winter weather, hurricanes, extreme heat, and other severe weather; and additional information for dealing with meteorological hazards. The site also provides a list of people to contact for further information. It can be found at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready>.

Natural Hazards Observer  
Volume XXIV Number 5, May 2000

## Editor's Note:

Both Yellowstone and Lewis & Clark Counties have been designated Storm-Ready. Congratulations!

In fact, you can learn more about Yellowstone County's designation at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/billings>

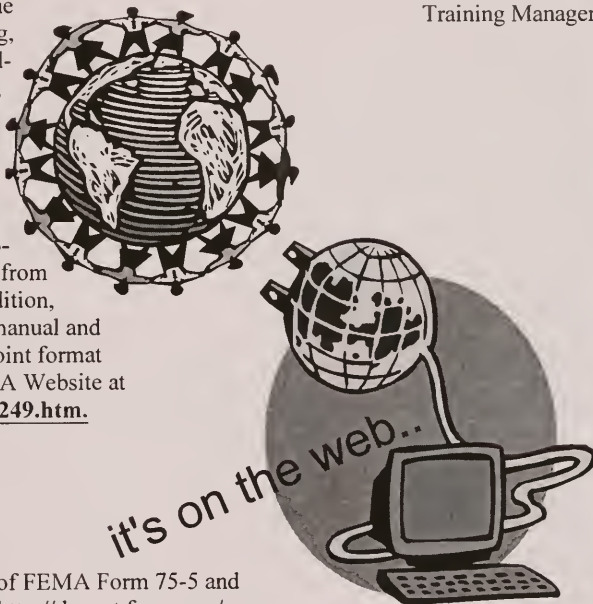
# EMI Information Gram

**T**he **Managing People in Disasters: A local Perspective (G-249)**, course is aimed at preparing people to step in to manage and supervise in chaotic and stressful crisis situations. The package of skills offered in this course should enable an emergency manager to shift from managing a normal office environment to supervising an expanded staff in rapidly changing conditions. Major topics in the course include communicating, community relationships, leadership, managing staff, teams, and managing the work. The course is designed to be delivered in three days.

Course materials for **Managing People in Disasters: A local Perspective** are available from the FEMA warehouse. In addition, the instructor guide, student manual and visuals in Microsoft Power Point format have been put up on the FEMA Website at <http://www.fema.gov/priv/g249.htm>.

Although the new course is not a requirement for the PDS Certificate, it does apply many of the basic skills within a disaster context, and thus offers the possibility of being given as a capstone experience or offered as refresher modules at conferences and other functions.

Provided by:  
Fred Naehar  
Training Manager



**S**creen-fillable versions of FEMA Form 75-5 and 75-5A can be found at <http://docnet.fema.gov/>.

You can fill these forms in on your computer then print them out and forward through the appropriate channels for processing.

This and other versions that can be printed and completed by hand can be accessed on the EMI course schedule page at <http://www.fema.gov/emi/crslists.htm>

Provided by:  
Fred Naehar  
Training Manager

# Good Disaster Management

This is the ninth in a series of articles summarized from "Ten Criteria for Evaluating the Management of Community Disasters" by E.L. Quarantelli, Co-Director of the Disaster Research Center of the University of Delaware.

## Principle 8

Blend emergency aspects with established ones.

Any disaster, even of moderate magnitude, will be marked by the presence of emergent groups and behaviors. "Emergent" normally refers to groups or individuals whose presence was not anticipated or planned for during the planning process. Emergent groups engage in search and rescue, do damage assessment, handle the dead, distribute relief supplies and so forth. If something needs to be done, especially at the height of a crisis, people and organizations will attempt to do something. These efforts might not be very efficient, but there will be an effort.

Disaster managers and planners should anticipate emergent groups and individuals. Just assuming emergent phenomena will occur is helpful, because if it is not expected, it becomes even more problematic to deal with. It is impossible to foresee everything, but there is no good reason for not anticipating the very probable, such as emergent groups.

There is a tendency for planners to assume that just because they did not anticipate emergent phenomena, that it cannot be good. Sometimes, however, new groups might provide the most effective way of coping with a problem, not necessarily the best solution, but at least a somewhat effective solution. Sometimes it might even be advantageous to facilitate certain kinds of emergence.



The point is that emergent behavior ought to be blended in the best way possible with other activities. The extent to which blending takes place is an indicator of good disaster management.

Submitted by:  
Bill Thomas  
DES District I Representative



# WINTER WEATHER

A few terms you should know...

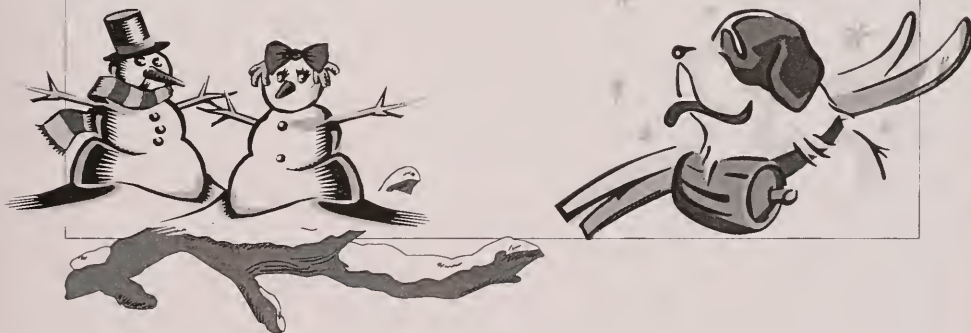
**Winter Storm Warning:** Issued when hazardous winter weather conditions are imminent or very likely, including any occurrence or combination of heavy snow, wind-driven snow, sleet and/or freezing rain/drizzle. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued for up to a 12 hour duration, but can be extended out to 24 hours.

**Winter Storm Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of hazardous weather elements such as heavy snow and/or blizzard conditions, or significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet. Watches are usually issued 24 to 48 hours in advance of the event(s).

**Blizzard Warning:** Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow creating visibility at or below 1/4 mile; these conditions should persist for at least three hours.

**Wind Chill Warning:** Issued when wind chill values are expected to reach 50 below zero (F) or lower along with wind speeds below 10 mph.

**Wind Chill Advisory:** Issued for wind chills of 35 below zero (F) or colder for a sustained period of time. Winds are expected to be at least 10 mph.



FEMA recently created a web page for and about local Emergency Program Managers. The web address is [www.fema.gov/emanagers](http://www.fema.gov/emanagers) and the page is labeled the Emanagers page.

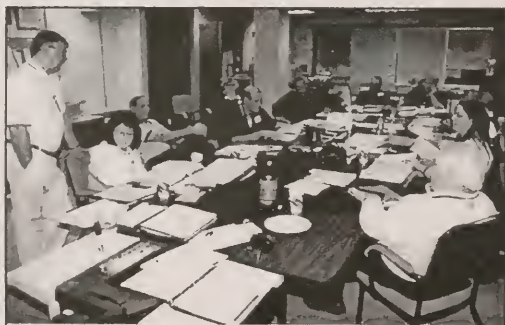
## Out & About

**What's happening?! Emergency Management in Montana.**



Martha Smith, Sanders County Office of Emergency Management, receives an award from Fred Naeher for her completion of the Professional Development Series. Congratulations Martha!

*P*hotographs  
Provided By:  
Bill Thomas



April 2000—Agency Representative Course conducted in Helena. The purpose of this course is to train people to assist state and local governments during emergencies/disasters by representing the State DES Office. This course was well-timed as most of these participants were utilized during the fire season.

# Longevity Recognition



DES Employees are recognized for their years of service to the State of Montana. Pictured from left to right are: Ed Gierke, 5 years; Monique Lay, 10 years; Dave Maser, 5 years; Fred Cowie, 10 years; and Jens Bolstad, 15 years. Way to go!



The DES Association E-Board met this June in Helena.



P

hotographs  
Provided By:  
Bill Thomas

PARTY!! DES Employees and their families relax after the June Staff Meeting. Remember when the grass was green and the air was breathable?? Didn't last long this year!





Can you identify the person in these two photos? We won't tell you his identity until next edition; however, we will give you two clues. He appears elsewhere in this newsletter AND he was involved in some way with the fires this summer. Can you figure it out?

## Mystery Quiz







**P**hotographs Provided By:  
Another mystery Person who  
wishes to remain anonymous  
until the next edition of our newsletter.

*What a gift of grace to be able to take  
the chaos from within and from it,  
create some semblance of order.*

*- Katherine Paterson*

## Out & About

**What's happening?!**  
**Emergency Management in Montana.**



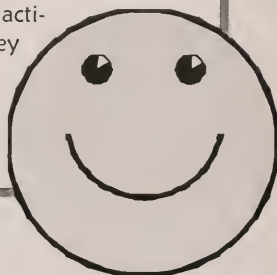
### *Congratulations*

*Wilma!* Wilma Puich, Butte/Silver Bow Emergency Manager, was recently presented the Pioneer Chapter of the American Red Cross, Spirit of Excellence Award for being an ongoing supporter of the Pioneer Chapter for over 39 years. Wilma was honored for her 15 years of service as the Executive Secretary of the Butte Chapter to the American Red Cross and for serving as a vital link in education and relationships between the American Red Cross, the community, and Disaster and Emergency Services for over 24 years. Wilma was also presented with a Pioneer Chapter Honorary Lifetime Member Award for her years of dedicated humanitarian services. The Pioneer Chapter consists of Butte/Silver Bow, Granite, Anaconda/Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Jefferson and Powell Counties.

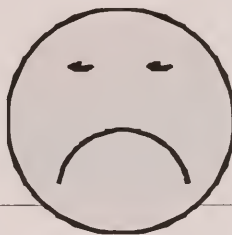
### *Hello*

We have two new faces at the State DES Office. Mary Ann Gregory joins us as our new Office Manager. She worked for the Department of Revenue before coming to DES and will be responsible for keeping things running efficiently in our office. Sheri Smith is our new Violence Coordinator and left the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to be part of the DES Team. She will be focusing on grants and terrorism and assuming some of Fred Cowie's responsibilities. Both of these ladies started their careers with us during our fire activation. Not only did they survive their first day unscathed, they were both brave enough to come back! They have become valued assets and we are fortunate to have them working with us in emergency management. The next time you stop by our office, please take the time to introduce yourself.

Provided by:  
Bill Thomas  
DES District I Rep



# & Goodbye



**F**red Cowie will be leaving DES effective December 30. Fred started with DES as a Planner back in 1990. Since that time he has added several titles to his list of responsibilities, including serving as the Liaison to Law Enforcement for Terrorism, the Liaison to Indian Nations for Emergency Management, and managing the HazMat and Grants Management Programs. Although accomplished at DES, Fred has had a colorful set of careers, ranging from professional watercolorist, to that of Russian linguist with the Army Security Agency and university professor of medieval history.

Among his other accomplishments, he served as a Board Member of NASTTPO, HazMat Author Team FEMA-DOT, FEMA-HQ Tiger Team member and Co-Coordinator for Montana of TRANSCAER7, winner Year 2000 FEMA Exemplary Practices Award, and member of a national family assistance team for US victims of national and international airline crashes. While at DES Fred was integral in compiling the Montana State Emergency Operations Plan; developing the Montana State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and many Montana Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs); developing and delivering an LEPC-oriented grant-writing course; managing Montana's SARA Title III FEMA, EPA and DOT and DOJ grants; acting as Emergency Management Liaison with the seven Indian Nations in Montana; developing and promoting the "frontier" (extremely rural) model for hazmat risk management and emergency management; developing a state-wide terrorism response management team; and developing and delivering dozens of community-based courses including Problem Solving, Meetings for Results, HazMat Awareness, Emergency Planning, Effective Presentations, LEPC Orientation, Public Policy, and Leadership and Influence.

Fred is a nationally-known speaker and trainer who specializes in realistic approaches to solving complex response issues. We wish you and your family well, Fred. Best of luck in your new ventures and all you do.



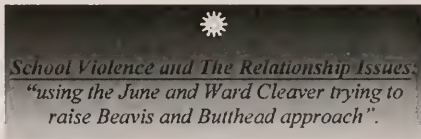
## Montanans Share Their Knowledge.....and Experience

Wilma Puich, Butte/Silver Bow Emergency Manager and Kate Stetzner, Superintendent of School District #1 were invited to be presenters at the U.S. Department of Education Region VIII "Picking Up the Pieces: Responding to School Crises" Conference in Denver, Colorado.

The conference was to provide a mechanism for law, fire, medical, volunteer and other organizations to join together to provide expertise in defining the dimensions of crisis in our schools, its management, and the aftermath.

Joining as "Partners" in the three day event were the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National PTA, State of Colorado Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Puich's topic "More Than A Fire Drill: A Planning Process" covered the need for schools to develop and/or refine existing all hazard school safety plans using an integrated emergency management approach. Stetzner's topic was School Violence and The Relationship Issues using the June and Ward Cleaver trying to raise Beavis and Butthead approach.



Other presenters included Ronald Sloan, Chief of Police for Arvada, Colorado and Jefferson County Sheriff's Division Chief John Kiekbush on lessons learned from the Columbine incident, Dr. Nicoletti, Clinical Police Psychologist on identifying, assessing and defusing violence in the workplace, Dr. Stephen Rundquist, Manager of the Utah Center for Domestic Preparedness and many others.

Over 300 representatives from all disciplines attended the event. Also attending the conference from Montana was Martha Smith, Emergency Manager from Sanders County.

Submitted by:  
Bill Thomas  
DES District I Rep





# EMI Information Gram

## New Independent Study Course!

### IS630—Introduction to the Public Assistance Process

#### Content:

This CD-ROM, computer-based training, is an introductory level course on FEMA's public assistance process. It includes four units of instruction: Public Assistance Process Overview, Eligibility, kickoff Meeting and Project Formulation, and Small Project Validation. There is a section on "How to Take This Course," an interactive summery activity, and a resource center with public assistance publications, forms, glossary, and link to FEMA's web site. All EMI Independent Study Courses require completion of an end of course exam, which is mailed for a certificate of completion.

#### Objectives:

- Describe the major components of FEMA's public assistance process.
- Identify the key players in the public assistance process.
- Describe the four building blocks of public assistance program eligibility.

#### Target Audience:

This independent study course is designed form all audiences who require an introductory level course into FEMA's public assistance process. Target audience included federal, state, tribal and local emergency management personnel.

#### Availability:

This multi-media, CD-ROM course is now available. To receive a copy, you must enroll in EMO's Independent Study (IS) Program, Emergency Management Institute, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. Contact EMI's IS office at (301) 447-1200. Inquiries via email can be directed at [independent.study@fema.gov](mailto:independent.study@fema.gov). Enrollment will soon be available via FEMA's web site (<http://www.fema.gov/emi/enroll/htm>).

Course Manager: Questions regarding this course can be directed to Maria Moore, (301) 447-1501 or email address—[maria.moore@fema.gov](mailto:maria.moore@fema.gov).

Provided by:  
Fred Naeher  
Training Manager



# Earthquake Preparedness Month!!

## Earthquakes Rock A BIG Success!! 2000

### MONTANA EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

**T**his year the Montana Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program excelled in educating our citizens on both their risk for earthquakes and their responsibility in preparing for them. Although the fire season consumed the majority of our efforts, we were able to feature a spectacular campaign. The following traditional events were once again included:

- Mailing inserts accompanied each piece of mail that left the state DES office throughout the month.
- All counties received packets of information and resources to help with their campaign efforts.
- All State Employees received an Earthquake information flier with their October 18 paycheck.
- Child Care Partnerships participates yearly by distributing information to licensed daycares.

Once again, our new theme, Earthquakes Rock!! promoted bookmarks, fliers, correspondence, and many other publications. The bookmarks, addressing Preparedness, Mitigation and the "Drop, Cover & Hold" Drill were created and disseminated to every

**E**arthquake Preparedness Month 2000 Rocked!! The event was a huge success and helped to heighten earthquake risk awareness statewide. Take a look at all the great things Montana counties did to make the year 2000 a BIG success.

student in the Montana Public School System. In addition, numerous requests for the bookmarks were received and filled by libraries, businesses, universities, and private individuals. Also:

- An earthquake documentary is being filmed to capture Montana's historical experiences involving earthquakes.
- Earthquake informational fliers were distributed throughout the Tri-County area (Jefferson, Broadwater, and Lewis & Clark County) via a generous partnership with The Adit.
- The Department of Health and Human Services requested an earthquake presentation for their agency and conducted an agency-wide earthquake drill.
- The Department of Administration requested and received an earthquake presentation for all Department Directors. They will be working toward making earthquake-safer work environments for state workers.

(Continued from page 34)

Presentations were given to : Thompson Falls school - Sanders County LEPC - Frenchtown SRO - Big Timber Group for Aging - Lewis & Clark County Project Impact Workshop. Department of Health and Human Services, and Target Store.



There is a whole generation of individuals in Montana who have never experienced a significant earthquake in our state. This campaign provides the opportunity to establish a routine and consistently remind them that Montana is at risk and a devastating event could happen at any time. For those who do remember how Montana rocked many years ago, it is a subtle reminder to adopt simple habits that could save lives and protect property.

## Earthquake Facts:

- Montana is the fourth most seismically active state in the U.S. trailing areas we typically associate with earthquakes: Alaska, California and Hawaii.
- Records show Montana has experienced significant earthquakes (magnitude 6.0 or larger) in 1897, 1909, 1925, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1964 and 1975. These quakes have damaged & destroyed buildings, disrupted our infrastructure, caused numerous injuries, and claimed 32 lives.
- Earthquake swarms are fairly common in Montana. The most recent occurred just east of Townsend producing 156 quakes from March 22 through July 9. The largest struck on May 24 and measured 4.0.
- The western half of Montana is considered the highest risk for damaging quakes. Ironically, approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Montana's population reside in this area.
- The largest loss of life from any one earthquake occurred in Tangshan, China in 1976. Over 255,000 people were killed by this devastating 7.8 quake.
- In 1909, an earthquake with a magnitude estimated between 5.5 and 6.5, rocked North-eastern Montana near the Saskatchewan-North Dakota border.
- In 1999, a 5.3 quake shook the Red Rock Valley near Lima. Although no damage occurred, it was felt over 200 miles away!
- Regarding earthquakes in the 20th Century, Montana has one of the highest per-capita death rates in the United States.
- By far, earthquakes are the greatest single-event natural hazard Montana faces.

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in Butte is a wonderful resource for us here at DES. Mike Stickney, a wealth of information, provides detailed and timely information on earthquakes and always has interesting and impressive statistics to share. Most of what is shared with you comes directly from Mike. Another invaluable tool he provides is the listing of recent Montana earthquakes on their website. You can visit it at:

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/quake/mbmgsun.mtech.edu/name=quake/border=1>

Check it out, you'll be impressed.

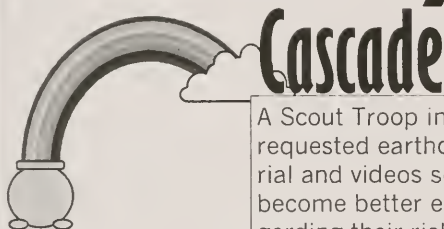
# County Activities Broadwater

Provided lots of extra info to individuals county-wide.



# Fergus & Phillips

Personally visited each and every school to discuss earthquake preparedness and school planning. Utilizing a fault map for the area and will follow up school visits with an earthquake presentation. Great job!



# Cascade

A Scout Troop in Great Fall requested earthquake material and videos so they could become better educated regarding their risk and responsibilities. Their troop will earn badges for their efforts. Super Job!!

# Flathead

"Earthquake Preparedness Month" was on their web site. Great information—Nicely done!

Working diligently to understand the risk in Lake County and educate its citizens. Hundreds of publications disseminated county-wide. Fantastic!

# Lake

# Glacier

Always working towards better preparedness. Way to go!

Distributed extra fliers and bookmarks to city/county employees and participated by involving the media. Currently assembling earthquake kits for the schools (and...looking for supplies to add to the kits)! They also conducted their school earthquake drills. Outstanding!

# Jefferson



## Montana Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program

Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster and Emergency Services Division  
P.O. Box 4789 - 1100 North Main  
Helena, MT 59604-4789

[www.state.mt.us/dma/des](http://www.state.mt.us/dma/des)  
(406) 841-3911



## Lewis & Clark



Distributed Earthquake informational fliers to all city/county employees as well as other businesses in the Helena area. Coordinated County Earthquake Drills for schools and all city/county employees. Provided extensive media coverage and developed partnerships with local businesses to help further promote earthquake awareness and preparedness (3M is providing window film for all the schools and earthquake kits are being assembled through Project Impact). And... conducted several earthquake presentations to schools and businesses throughout the county. As always, Lewis & Clark County does an exemplary job with earthquake education and preparedness!!

## Pondera

Continues to distribute information to those who live in Pondera County. Benefiting from the use of an earthquake fault map which is being used to further their preparedness efforts.

## Sweet Grass

Is diligent in providing information and educational opportunities to the people of Sweet Grass County and hosted a presentation for the Big Timber Group for Aging. In fact, Pat wrote the book on Continental Drift! Nice Job!

## Sanders

Continues to provide Sanders County residents with a multitude of earthquake information. In addition, hosted two presentations in their county. Great!



## Valley

Requested earthquake statistics and information as justification for conducting their earthquake drills.

## Wheatland

Prompted by our campaign, Judith Gap conducted their first-ever Earthquake Drill last year. The tradition continues. Yeah!!!

## Silver Bow

Personally visited each school to discuss earthquake preparedness and school planning and delivered bookmarks to the students. Coordinated earthquake drills and conducted several earthquake presentations. This county is well-aware of their risk and does a fabulous job planning and preparing for the next big event.

## Yellowstone



Lockwood Elementary School is putting more emphasis on their emergency drills in order to better protect their staff and students.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

NOV 2 2000

RECEIVED

Dan Poore  
MT Disaster & Emergency Services  
1100 N Main  
Helen, MT 59620-2111

DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES  
STATE OF MONTANA

The 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) is a complex publication requiring many areas of cross referencing. In such publications it is possible to have an error. We are attempting to contact as many people as possible to make everyone aware of just such a situation.

On Page 360 of the English version of the printed ERG, there is a typographical error. In the Table of Water-Reactive Materials Which Produce Toxic Gases, the wrong Guide (Guide 151) is listed for Dimethyldichlorosilane (ID No. 1162). The correct Guide for this material is 155, as listed in the ID Number Index (yellow-bordered pages, Page 29) and the Name of Material Index (blue bordered pages, Page 130).

The correction has been made to the Internet version of the ERG on DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety website (<http://hazmat.dot.gov/gydebook.htm>). The French version, the Spanish version and Transport Canada's Internet version (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/guide/guide-e.htm>) all list the correct Guide for Dimethyldichlorosilane (ID No. 1162).

We are asking your assistance in disseminating this information to as many users of the ERG as possible.

PRIORITY

Sincerely,

David L. Sargent, Director  
Office of Hazardous Materials  
Initiatives and Training



*From all of us at  
D&S . . . .*



*Have a very Safe and  
Happy Holi-  
day Season!*



# S

## ate of Montana

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 **First Class Mail**



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Articles or questions regarding articles may be addressed to:

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